

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

I feel that loosening restrictions on media giants will create a negative effect on the average citizen. It will in effect give a select few the ability to manipulate what we hear and see. They will continue to gobble up the smaller media outlets until they have a monopoly on the whole industry. Which in turn could drastically impact political and sociologic views of the common citizen. More independent outlets are needed not less.